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Message Text

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45
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AF-10

DRC-01 /157 W
---------- 049549
O R 221855Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4995
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 12257

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, UK, XF
SUBJECT: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY ANNOUNCES ME
CEASEFIRE TO COMMONS

1. FONSEC DOUGLAS-HOME MADE SHORT STATEMENT TO COMMONS
OCTOBER 22 APPEALING TO BOTH SIDES IN ME WAR "SCRUPULOUS-
LY TO OBSERVE" UNSC'S CALL FOR CEASEFIRE. HE NOTED
ACCEPTANCE BY ISRAEL, EGYPT, AND JORDAN AND ASSOCIATED
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HIMSELF WITH HOPE VOICED FROM LABOUR SIDE THAT CEASEFIRE

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TAKE EFFECT ON ISRAEL'S EGYPTIAN FRONT EVEN IF DELAYED
ON SYRIAN.

2. STATING THAT HMG "REALIZE THE ROAD TO SETTLEMENT
WILL NOT BE EASY," FONSEC ADDED: "THIS TIME THE
MOMENTUM TOWARDS PEACE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SLACKEN."
HE SPOKE OF THE PROBABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES,
AND OF DEMILITARIZED BUFFER ZONES, AND EXPRESSED
BRITAIN'S WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE PART OF ANY PEACE-
KEEPING FORCE THAT MAY BE REQUIRED--A PROPOSAL FOR WHICH
LABOUR'S SHADOW FONSEC CALLAGHAN EXPRESSED APPROVAL,
PROVIDED FORCE WOULD BE UNDER UN MANDATE NOT PERMITTING
ITS REMOVAL AT REQUEST OF ONE SIDE ONLY. SIR ALEC
READILY AGREED THAT FORCE SHOULD BE UNDER UN AND NOT
SUBJECT TO REMOVAL AT UNILATERAL REQUEST.

3. OPPOSITION LEADER WILSON JOINED OTHER MEMBERS OF
LABOUR PARTY IN QUESTIONING FONSEC CLOSELY ON TYPE OF
NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD PEACE SETTLEMENT ENVISAGED BY UNSC
RESOLUTION. ADMITTING THIS WAS IMPORTANT POINT, FONSEC
SAID HE COULD NOT BE DEFINITIVE, AND WOULD BE DISCUSSING
THIS MATTER, AMONG OTHERS, WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IF
LATTER WAS ABLE TO MAKE SCHEDULED STOPOVER IN LONDON
LATER THAT EVENING. FONSEC AGREED WITH WILSON THAT
DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS AFTER SUCH A WAR "WOULD BE BEST,"
BUT HE THOUGHT IT PROBABLE THAT PARTIES "WOULD NEED
HELP."

4. FONSEC ALSO AGREED WITH ANOTHER SUGGESTION FROM
WILSON, THAT GENEROUS COMPENSATION FOR THE PALESTINIANS
MUST BE PART OF ANY LASTING SETTLEMENT, AND THAT OTHER
COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO THE ME PARTIES INVOLVED PROVIDE
MEANS OF THIS COMPENSATION. FONSEC STATED IT AS HIS OWN
VIEW THAT ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT WHICH DID NOT PROVIDE
FOR THE PALESTINIANS COULD NOT STICK.

5. FONSEC FENDED OFF ONE LABOUR MEMBER'S REQUEST THAT
BRITAIN ADOPT THE ATTITUDE ALL ARMS SHIPMENTS BE ENDED
IN FUTURE TO EITHER SIDE IN THE CONFLICT, AS BRITISH
HAD THROUGH THEIR EMBARGO. FONSEC SAID LIMITATION OF
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ARMAMENTS PROBABLY DESIRABLE, BUT HE THOUGHT SOME ARMS
COULD AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED.

6. SESSION WAS CUT SHORT BY SPEAKER AFTER TOTAL OF
BARELY HALF AN HOUR WITHOUT EXHAUSTING QUESTIONS MEMBERS
WISHED TO PUT. ATMOSPHERE WAS ONE OF QUIET RELIEF AND
EVEN MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION CHEERED TORY MEMBER'S PROPOSAL
THAT SIR ALEC BE CONGRATULATED FOR "KEEPING HIS COOL"

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THROUGH CRISIS. SIR ALEC RESPONDED BY REMINDING MEMBERS
THAT PEACEMAKING PROCESS HAS ONLY BEGUN.

ANNENBERG

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NNN

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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